

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

MEETINGS MINUTES

Members Present: Maggie Zheng, David Nicholson, Glenn Ward, Diego Martinez Barrera, Leshawn Bowen, David Ojeda, Kyle Hetherington, Jose Roberto Diaz-Brown, Michelle Coronado, Michelle Coronado, Ev Essif, Ki Huang, Moeed Irfan, Sameed Irfan, Leshawn Bowen, Ev Essif, Jared Essif, Ki Huang, Kyle Hetherington, Blanca Rios, Ami Licea.

Non-Members Present: Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez (District 2), Nancy Montoya, Ed Nossem, Kimberly Ward, Irfan Sheik, Angel Alcorha.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – MAGGIE ZHENG

Meeting called to order at 6:10 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL – MAGGIE ZHENG

Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MAGGIE ZHENG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – MAGGIE ZHENG

Approval of February 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Diego Martinez Barrera

Second: Leshawn Bowen

Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR RAMON VALADEZ

Pima County District 2 Supervisor Ramon Valadez introduced himself to the students, described his role as a Pima County Supervisor, and took questions from the students. Mr. Valadez is an alumnus of Pueblo High School in Tucson, and has worked and served in government at the local, state, and national level, having been an aide to former Arizona Senator Dennis DeConcini, former Governor Janet Napolitano, and Congressman Ed Pastor. He ran for U of A Student Body President, having lost his first attempt but winning his second attempt. He was elected to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in 2004.

Supervisor Valadez spoke of the challenges that candidates face, the rewards of public service, the crucial need for young people to vote in order to influence the things that affect our lives, the role that media plays in elections, and the role that problem-solving skills. Mr. Valadez has a degree in electrical engineering, and offered some anecdotes on how that ability is a very useful in politics and in life.

6.0 YAC/TTC FUNDRAISING OPTIONS – MAGGIE ZHENG

Further discussion will take place on this issue after the Student Lobby Day.

7.0 STUDENT LOBBY DAY – PAUL LOVELIS (Not present)

The 3 Committees that are addressing the 3 issues from the Teen Town Hall convened to discuss the presentation of issues to the legislators.

Committee #1 will address student and teacher lack of motivation due to defunding of schools and the perception that teachers are not valued; their low wages and lack of opportunities are prevalent. This committee will meet with Senator Don Shooter, and will present emotional stories and vignettes describing the effects of the situation on students.

Committee #2 will address the funding cuts to education, and will be meeting with Senator Keli Ward and Representative Kate Brophy McGee. They will describe how the budget cuts affect their futures, giving personal stories, and point out that money set aside for future prison beds would be much more effectively used to fund education.

Committee #3 will be meeting with Senator Kimberly Yee and Representative Vince Leach, and will address different testing standards, including Common Core issues, and what the goal of education is in the eyes of the Legislature versus the students' perspective. They will relate personal stories and discuss how curricula affects their future.

8.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS - MAGGIE ZHENG

8.1 Elected Officials Visits Update

8.2 LULAC Career Fair – Volunteers Needed

8.3 Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest - Deadline March 20th

8.4 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – YAC/TTC Attendees May 8th

Upcoming meetings with City Council members are as follows:

Council Member Richard Fimbres – POSTPONED

Pima Co. Supervisor Ramon Valadez – Wednesday, February 18

City Council Member Paul Cunningham – Wednesday, March 18

Pima Co. Supervisor Richard Elias – Wednesday, April 1

Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild – Wednesday, April 15

9.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: Maggie Zheng

Second: Kyle Hetherington

Motion carried 21-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.